

IN THE DRAWINGS

Corrected drawings are supplied herewith, each drawing labeled as “Replacement Sheet” as requested.

REMARKS

This responds to the Office Action mailed on September 29, 2005.

Claims 1, 5, 9, 12, 17, 25, 31, 37 and 43-45 are amended, claims 4 and 8 are canceled, and claims 46-51 are added; as a result, claims 1-3, 5-7 and 9-51 are now pending in this application.

Claim Objections

Claims 12 was objected to as because of informalities and is presently amended to read “feature diagram models” as requested. Withdrawal of the claim 12 objection is respectfully requested.

§102 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 9-45 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) for anticipation by Coad et al. (U.S. 6,851,107; hereinafter “Coad”). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of claims 9-45 in view of the arguments previously submitted. Applicant further comments in detail to the rejections as follows:

Independent Claim 9

Applicant amended claim 9 to more clearly recite the present subject matter. Claim 9 was amended to include, among other things, selecting one or more features from a universe of predefined features. Applicant respectfully repeats the discussion set forth in previously submitted arguments and submits that the cited portion of Coad fails to teach or suggest, among other things, selecting one or more features from a universe of predefined features, as recited in claim 9.

Reconsideration and allowance of claim 9 are respectfully requested.

Dependent Claims 10-16

Independent Claim 17

Applicant amended claim 17 to more clearly recite the present subject matter. Claim 17 was amended to include, among other things, selecting one or more features from a group of predefined features. Applicant respectfully repeats the discussion set forth in previously submitted arguments and submits that the cited portion of Coad fails to teach or suggest, among other things, selecting one or more features from a group of predefined features, as recited in claim 17.

Reconsideration and allowance of claim 17 are respectfully requested.

Dependent Claims 18-24

Applicant respectfully repeats the foregoing discussion of claim 17 as further supporting the patentability of dependent claims 18-24. Reconsideration and allowance of claims 18-24 are respectfully requested.

Independent Claim 25

Applicant amended claim 25 to more clearly recite the present subject matter. Claim 25 was amended to include, among other things, the one or more feature diagram includes one or more features from a universe of predefined features. Applicant respectfully repeats the discussion set forth in previously submitted arguments and submits that the cited portion of Coad fails to teach or suggest, among other things, one or more feature diagrams including one or more features from a universe of predefined features, as recited in claim 25.

Reconsideration and allowance of claim 25 are respectfully requested.

Dependent Claims 26-30

Applicant respectfully repeats the foregoing discussion of claim 25 as further supporting the patentability of dependent claims 26-30. Reconsideration and allowance of claims 26-30 are respectfully requested.

Independent Claim 31

Applicant amended claim 31 to more clearly recite the present subject matter. Claim 31 was amended to include, among other things, an editor adapted to allow selection of one or more features to be included in a statechart from a universe of predefined features. Applicant respectfully repeats the discussion set forth in previously submitted arguments and submits that the cited portion of Coad fails to teach or suggest, among other things, an editor adapted to allow selection of one or more features to be included in a statechart from a universe of predefined features, as recited in claim 31.

Reconsideration and allowance of claim 31 are respectfully requested.

Dependent Claims 32-36

Applicant respectfully repeats the foregoing discussion of claim 31 as further supporting the patentability of dependent claims 32-36. Reconsideration and allowance of claims 32-36 are respectfully requested.

Independent Claim 37

Applicant amended claim 37 to more clearly recite the present subject matter. Claim 37 was amended to include, among other things, an editor adapted to allow selection of one or more features to be included in a statechart from a group of predefined features. Applicant respectfully repeats the discussion set forth in previously submitted arguments and submits that the cited portion of Coad fails to teach or suggest, among other things, an editor adapted to allow selection of one or more features to be included in a statechart from a group of predefined features, as recited in claim 37.

Reconsideration and allowance of claim 37 are respectfully requested.

Dependent Claims 38-42

Applicant respectfully repeats the foregoing discussion of claim 37 as further supporting the patentability of dependent claims 38-42. Reconsideration and allowance of claims 38-42 are respectfully requested.

Independent Claim 43

Applicant amended claim 43 to more clearly recite the present subject matter. Claim 43 was amended to include, among other things, modifying the feature diagram, including selecting one or more features from a universe of predefined features. Applicant respectfully repeats the discussion set forth in previously submitted arguments and submits that the cited portion of Coad fails to teach or suggest, among other things, modifying the feature diagram, including selecting one or more features from a universe of predefined features, as recited in claim 43.

Reconsideration and allowance of claim 43 are respectfully requested.

Independent Claim 44

Applicant amended claim 44 to more clearly recite the present subject matter. Claim 43 was amended to include, among other things, modifying the feature diagram, including selecting one or more features from a universe of predefined features. Applicant respectfully repeats the discussion set forth in previously submitted arguments and submits that the cited portion of Coad fails to teach or suggest, among other things, modifying the feature diagram, including selecting one or more features from a universe of predefined features, as recited in claim 44.

Reconsideration and allowance of claim 44 are respectfully requested.

Independent Claim 45

Applicant amended claim 45 to more clearly recite the present subject matter. Claim 45 was amended to include, among other things, modifying the feature diagram, including selecting one or more features from a universe of predefined features. Applicant respectfully repeats the discussion set forth in previously submitted arguments and submits that the cited portion of Coad fails to teach or suggest, among other things, modifying the feature diagram, including selecting one or more features from a universe of predefined features, as recited in claim 45.

Reconsideration and allowance of claim 45 are respectfully requested.

§103 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 1-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Coad in view of Pruitt (U.S. 6,179,490; hereinafter “Pruitt”). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of claims 1-8 in view of the arguments previously submitted. Applicant has amended independent claims 1 and 5 and canceled claims 4 and 8 at this time to better recite the patentable subject matter. However, Applicant reserves the right to resubmit claims 1-8 in their originally filed form in a continuing application at a later date.

Independent claims 1 and 5 have been amended to include adding a state to the potential statechart for each state-type feature added to the feature diagram, including the feature diagram modeling a system for controlling semiconductor equipment used to process a Lot of semiconductor wafers. Applicant is unable to find a teaching or suggestion in either Coad or Pruitt regarding adding a state to the potential statechart for each state-type feature added to the feature diagram, including the feature diagram modeling a system for controlling semiconductor equipment used to process a Lot of semiconductor wafers, as recited.

Thus, applicant respectfully submits that amended independent claims 1 and 5 are patentable over the combination of Coad and Pruitt. Claims 2-3 and 6-7 depend directly from claims 1 and 5, respectively and are patentable for at least the same reasons.

Thus, Applicant respectfully requests consideration of the amendments and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-3 and 5-7.

New Claims 46-51

Claims 46-51 are newly added as dependent on claim 9 and 17. Consideration and allowance of these dependent claims are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's attorney (612) 373-6912 to facilitate prosecution of this application.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0743.

Respectfully submitted,

SHANE CLIFFORD

By his Representatives,

SCHWEGMAN, LUNDBERG, WOESSNER & KLUTH, P.A.
P.O. Box 2938
Minneapolis, MN 55402
(612) 373-6912

Date

Jan. 30, 2006

By



Timothy E. Bianchi
Reg. No. 39,610

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop AF, Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this 30 day of January, 2006.

Name

KATE GANNON

Signature

